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MEDIA RELEASE

November 20, 1986

UM LAW SCHOOL TEAM ADVANCES TO NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION FINALS

MISSOULA --

For the fifth time in seven years, a University of Montana Law School team has advanced to the finals of the National Moot Court Competition.

Third-year UM law students Colleen Ambrose of Missoula, Dick Samson of Helena and Kelly Wills of Sun River will travel to New York City in January to compete in the nationals. They placed second in the Nov. 15 Northwest Regional Competition semifinals, where they garnered the Best Brief Award.

A second team of third-year UM law students tied for third place at the regional semifinals: Jo Mickelson of Bozeman and Deanne Sandholm and Glenn Tremper of Missoula.

Coaching the teams have been UM Associate Professor of Law Bari Burke, UM law Professor J. Martin Burke, and three former UM Moot Court team members who are now Missoula attorneys: Sharon Snyder, Paul Meisner and Mark Mattioli.

In Moot Court, this country's oldest, most prestigious law school competition, teams are judged 60 percent on their oral presentation and 40 percent on their written briefs. This year, the teams must address the thorny issue of whether a client has a

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constitutionally protected right to be represented by an attorney of his choosing.

The UM team made up of Ambrose, Samson and Wills will be among 28 teams entering the finals, two teams per region. Burke says at least 175 law schools compete in the regional rounds that determine which teams will progress to the nationals.

Competing at the Northwest Regional Competition in Tacoma, Wash., were UM, the University of Idaho, Gonzaga University, the University of Washington, the University of Puget Sound, the University of Oregon and Willamette University.

Mickelson, Sandholm and Tremper lost to the University of Washington in the semifinals. Ambrose, Samson and Wills defeated the University of Puget Sound in the same round before losing to the University of Washington in the championship round.

The University of Washington team will join Ambrose, Samson and Wills in representing the Northwest Region in the nationals.

UM law students have traditionally done well in the Moot Court nationals, with a record of 11 wins and three losses. In 1981, the University's team won the nationals after placing second in the region behind the University of Idaho.

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Local and dailies, Sun Valley Sun, Wheat Center News, Fairfield Times

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